

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1,4,6, and 9-10 to read as follows:

1. (Three Times Amended) A method for detection of an analyte in a test sample comprising the steps of:

preparing a lanthanide ion-ligand complex by mixing a lanthanide ion and a ligand, wherein the lanthanide ion is selected from the group consisting of neodymium (III) ion, ytterbium (III) ion (Yb^{3+}) and erbium (III) ion (Er^{3+}), and wherein said ligand comprises a sensitizing moiety, which absorbs light in the 400 –1000 nm region;

labeling an immunoreactant with the lanthanide ion-ligand complex by contacting the immunoreactant with the lanthanide ion-ligand complex to form a labeled immunoreactant;

mixing an analyte, a specific binding partner for the analyte, and the labeled immunoreactant to form a mixture;

irradiating the mixture with a single photon of light having a wavelength ranging from 400 nm to 1000 nm;

measuring an emitted luminence from said mixture; and

detecting an analyte using said luminence measurement.

4. (Three Times Amended) The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 10, wherein the ligand is a composition which comprises, as one of its constituents, a compound which comprises an element selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, and sulfur moieties which can complex with Nd (III), Yb (III), or Er (III) ions, and the sensitizing moiety is selected from the group consisting of fluorescein derivatives; triphenylmethane derivatives; porphyrin derivatives; rhodamine derivatives; phenothiazine

derivatives; phenoxazine derivatives; coumarin derivatives; acridin derivatives; thio-indigo derivatives; indigo derivatives; carbocyanine derivatives; squaraine derivatives; naphthalocyanine derivatives and; phthalocyanine derivatives.

6. (Three Times Amended) An apparatus for detection of an analyte in a test sample comprising:

the kit of claims 5, 12, 13 or 14;

a light source for emitting a single photon in the 400-1000 nm wavelength range;

and

a detector, which can detect luminescence in the 800-1600 nm range.

9. (Twice Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the detector can detect luminescence in the 800-1100 nm range.

10. (Amended) A method for detection of an analyte in a test sample comprising the steps of:

preparing a lanthanide ion-ligand complex by mixing a lanthanide ion and a ligand, wherein the lanthanide ion is selected from the group consisting of neodymium (III) ion, ytterbium (III) ion (Yb^{3+}) and erbium (III) ion (Er^{3+}), wherein the ligand is in contact with a sensitizing moiety, which absorbs lights in the 400 -1000 nm range;

labeling an immunoreactant with said lanthanide ion-ligand complex by contacting the immunoreactant with the lanthanide ion-ligand complex to form a labeled immunoreactant;